

June 11 / Administration of George Bush, 1992

Appointment of Maria Solandros Eitel Sheehan as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Media Affairs

June 11, 1992

The President today announced the appointment of Maria Solandros Eitel Sheehan, of Washington State, as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Media Affairs.

Since 1989, Ms. Eitel Sheehan has served the President as Deputy Director of Media Affairs with responsibility for regional, specialty, and trade media. Before coming to the White House, Ms. Eitel Sheehan worked at the U.S. Information Agency as a program officer and producer for "Worldnet Dialogues" and as a correspondent for the television news program "America Today." In 1987, Ms. Eitel Sheehan worked at WETA-TV in Washington, DC,

as an associate producer for "World Beat," a foreign affairs television series. Prior to this, she served in the economics section of the U.S. Embassy in Cameroon. From 1983 to 1985, in Seattle, Ms. Eitel Sheehan worked in the news and documentary departments of NBC affiliate KING-TV and was a freelance reporter and producer for PBS station KCTS-TV.

Ms. Eitel Sheehan graduated from McGill University in Montreal, Canada (B.A., 1983) and Georgetown University School of Foreign Service (M.S.F.S., 1988). She was born June 26, 1962, in Everett, WA. She is married, has one child, and resides in Washington, DC.

Address to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

June 12, 1992

President Collor, Mr. Secretary-General, heads of delegation, may I first express my admiration to Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali and my gratitude to Secretary General Maurice Strong for his tireless work in bringing this Earth summit together. This is truly an historic gathering.

The Chinese have a proverb: If a man cheats the Earth, the Earth will cheat man. The idea of sustaining the planet so that it may sustain us is as old as life itself. We must leave this Earth in better condition than we found it.

Today this old truth must be applied to new threats facing the resources which sustain us all, the atmosphere and the ocean, the stratosphere and the biosphere. Our village is truly global. Some find the challenges ahead overwhelming. I believe that their pessimism is unfounded.

Twenty years ago, at the Stockholm conference, a chief concern of our predecessors was the horrible threat of nuclear war, the ultimate pollutant. No more. Upon my re-

turn from Rio, I will meet with Russian President Yeltsin in Washington, and the subject we will discuss is cooperation, not confrontation. Twenty years ago, some spoke of the limits to growth. Today we realize that growth is the engine of change and the friend of the environment.

Today, an unprecedented era of peace, freedom, and stability makes concerted action on the environment possible as never before. This summit is but one key step in the process of international cooperation on environment and development. The United States will work to carry forward the promise of Rio because as important as the road to Rio has been, what matters more is the road from Rio.

There are those who say that cooperation between developed and developing countries is impossible. Well, let them come to Latin America, where debt-for-nature swaps are protecting forests in Costa Rica and funding pollution control in Chile.